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This must suffice for a very inadequate notice of this valuable work. It is a work that no library can dispense with, and it is replete with information and interest on every page. The sole drawback is "the element of time," which, the editor says, "still remains inexorable," but he adds, "since the close of Volume I, it has been the aim of the editor and his staff to maintain such a regular rate of progress as will ensure the production of one Part a year." In that event we may soon look for Part V, but even at that rate it will be twenty years before the work can be finished. This is sailing too close to the wind, and for the benefit of those of us who may have no use for mundane dictionaries by that time, as well as to secure the completion of the work by the present efficient editor and his staff, we may express the hope that it may be found possible to increase materially this rate of progress. We would not have the work slurred to effect this, but perhaps an increase of working force may expedite it.

JAMES M. GARNETT.

Chaucer. The Minor Poems. Edited by the Rev. WALTER W. SKEAT, Litt. D. Oxford, At the Clarendon Press, 1888.

We at last have a complete and critical edition of Chaucer's Minor Poems, and are indebted for it to Professor Skeat, the indefatigable worker. It will be sufficient to describe just what this edition is, and to commend it to all *Fachmänner*. After an Introduction of lxxxvi pages, follow XXIII poems, occupying pages 1-222; the Notes fill pp. 223-404, the Glossarial Index, pp. 405-451, and the Indexes of Proper Names and of Subjects Explained in the Notes, pp. 452-462.

The Introduction is very full and complete, giving the testimony of Chaucer, Lydgate, Shirley, the scribes of the MSS, and Caxton, to Chaucer's works. The early editions of Chaucer's works are next enumerated, the table of contents of Stowe's edition (1561)—Part I, reprinted matter, and Part II, Stowe's additions—is given, and the poems contained in each Part are discussed. The poems added in Speght's editions of 1598 and 1602, and those in Dr. Morris's edition of 1866, are next considered. Then follow a complete list of the MSS, about forty in number, nearly all of which have been printed in the Chaucer Society's publications, and remarks upon some of the most important MSS at Oxford (6), Cambridge (4), and London (10), after which each of the twenty-three poems is considered at greater or less length, filling some forty pages of the Introduction.

The last three poems are printed as an Appendix. No. XXI is copied by Shirley in MS Harl. 78 as a continuation of the "Complaint to Pity," and its lines are so numbered in Furnivall's "Odd-texts of Chaucer's Poems," but Stowe's edition of 1561 prints it as a separate poem. Prof. Skeat says that it has nothing to do with the "Complaint to Pity," and is a succession of metrical experiments, two fragments furnishing "the sole example, in English literature of that period, of the use of *terza rima*, obviously copied from Dante; and Chaucer was the only writer who then had a real acquaintance with that author." Nos. XXII and XXIII are additions made by Prof. Skeat, discovered by him while searching various MSS of Chaucer's Minor Poems in the British Museum. They are both in Shirley's handwriting, though they are not claimed by Shirley

for Chaucer, but Prof. Skeat thinks that for the first the internal evidence is irresistible, and that the second fulfills all the usual tests of metre, rime, and language. Both poems are in Troilus-verse, the verse also of the "Parliament of Fowls," and the last stanza of the first one shows direct connection with that poem. The internal evidence for Chaucer's authorship is very strong, stronger to my mind than in No. XXI, and we are thus indebted to Prof. Skeat for the recovery of two of Chaucer's poems never before printed, the one of 91 and the other of 21 lines. In No. XXIII, line 19 seems to me susceptible of emendation by reading *suffren* for *suffre*. The line is as follows:

"Ne yit to long to *suffren* in this plyte."

According to Chaucer's usual practice, *e* in *suffre* would be elided before *i* in *in*, which would destroy the rhythm, whereas if we read *suffren*, we preserve the rhythm, and we preserve the form used by Chaucer under similar circumstances in "The Book of the Duchesse," line 412:

"Had mad it *suffren*, and his sorwes."

Various readings are given at the foot of each page, and the Notes state the reasons for particular readings or emendations, so that we have at last, what has been long wanted, a critical edition of Chaucer's Minor Poems. We could wish that the "Legend of Good Women" had been included, but its length forbade. Prof. Corson's edition of it has long been out of print, and it is not now accessible except in editions of Chaucer's complete works. Prof. Corson's edition should be reprinted.

It may be remarked, in passing, that Prof. Skeat makes no mention of Prof. Lounsbury's excellent little edition of the "Parliament of Fowls," which has been long before the public, but perhaps it has not yet found its way across the water; and while recognizing that this poem "may have been written in 1381, in which case it may very well refer to the betrothal of King Richard II to Queen Anne of Bohemia," Prof. Skeat omits to give credit for this discovery to Dr. John Koch, of Berlin, whose essay on the subject was long ago reprinted in the Chaucer Society's Publications. He quotes from Prof. Ward's "Life of Chaucer," but Ward simply follows Dr. Koch's essay.

The reader is referred to the Introduction itself for Prof. Skeat's reasons for the acceptance or rejection of certain poems heretofore included in Chaucer's works. Besides the three above-mentioned, Prof. Skeat has added two others found in Chaucer MSS, one of which has been printed by Maetzner as a specimen of Chaucer's Minor Poems, and he has rejected "The Mother of God," with others now generally regarded as spurious. As it stands, the edition will be welcomed by all lovers of Chaucer.

J. M. G.

The Poems of Laurence Minot. Edited with Introduction and Notes by
JOSEPH HALL, M. A. Oxford, At the Clarendon Press, 1887.

Mr. Hall has given us a handy little edition of the eleven lyrical poems written in the Northern dialect by Laurence Minot—a Yorkshireman, as is thought—in commemoration of the victories of Edward III over the Scots and over the French during twenty years of the fourteenth century (1333-52).